

**WESTON-SUPER- MARE TOWN COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD AT THE TOWN HALL ON  
MONDAY 20<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2023**

**Meeting Commenced:** 7.10 pm

**Meeting Concluded:** 8.23 pm

**PRESENT:** Councillors Sonia Russe (Town Mayor), Dot Agassiz, Ray Armstrong, Roger Bailey, Gill Bute, Mark Canniford, Gill Carpenter, James Clayton, Sarah Codling, Peter Crew, John Crockford-Hawley, Ciaran Cronnelly, Dace Dash, Peter Fox, Catherine Gibbons, Jan Holloway, Pete McAleer, Robert Payne, Alan Peak, Marcia Pepperall, Lisa Pilgrim, Ian Porter, Timothy Taylor, Helen Thornton, Richard Tucker and Roz Willis.

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Malcolm Nicholson (Town Clerk), Sarah Pearse (Deputy Town Clerk, Samantha Bishop (Committee Officer/Manager), Rebecca Saunders (Mayors Civic Officer/Committee Officer), Fay Powell (Assistant Town Clerk Operational Services), Inspector Graham Hall (Avon & Somerset Police), Richard Penska (Citizens Advice Bureau), Reverend Peter Ashman (Town Mayors Chaplin) and 4 members of the public.

The Town Mayor invited her Chaplain to say prayers.

The Town Mayor invited members of the public to address the council.

Kevin Hebditch addressed the council and expressed concern over the timing of a Special Policy & Finance Sub Committee that was convened on the 4<sup>th</sup> January 2023, to consider the tenders and award the contracts for HQ and other works and also questioned the council's procurement process in detail.

The Town Clerk advised that the convening of the Special Policy & Finance Sub Committee was a decision resolved by the Policy & Finance Committee and was within legal timeframes.

The Deputy Town Clerk requested that all Mr Hebditch's questions be emailed to the council as she did not have the information to hand and would give a written response.

<b>338</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutions</b>  Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mark Aplin, Mark Canniford and Clare Morris.  Councillors Dave Hitchins was absent from the meeting.
<b>339</b>	<b>To receive Declarations of Interest</b>  Councillor Ciaran Cronnelly declared a prejudicial interest as an employee of Citizens Advice Bureau who were giving a presentation under item 7 on the agenda.
<b>340</b>	<b>To approve the accuracy of the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2023</b>  The minutes had been previously circulated.

	<p><b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor Alan Peak  <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Robert Payne</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting.</p>
<p><b>341</b></p>	<p><b>To receive announcements and communications from The Town Mayor</b></p> <p>The Mayor’s announcements and communications had been circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <p>There had been 21 engagements for the Mayor, which was a total of 191 to date.</p> <p>Significant events were:  <u>1<sup>st</sup> Feb-Reg Charles 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday party</u>  <u>2<sup>nd</sup> Feb-Weston College Celebration of Success</u>  <u>7<sup>th</sup> Feb-Army Engagement Evening</u>  <u>25<sup>th</sup> Feb-Upon The Sea Cocktail Party</u></p> <p>Upcoming Events were:  <u>23<sup>rd</sup> April-Scouts St George Day Celebration</u>  <u>20<sup>th</sup> April- Ramadan Celebration</u>  <u>29<sup>th</sup> April-SEN Learn to Float Session</u>  <u>30<sup>th</sup> April-Civic Service &amp; Mayor’s Awards</u></p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the report be noted.</p>
<p><b>342</b></p>	<p><b>To receive the Notes of the Youth Council Meeting</b></p> <p>The notes of the Youth Council Meeting held in December 2022 had been previously circulated.</p> <p>It was noted that a further meeting had taken place since then and that the Youth Council was trying to resume regulatory.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the notes be received.</p>
<p><b>343</b></p>	<p><b>Neighbourhood and Response Policing in Weston-Super-Mare</b></p> <p>The Town Mayor invited Inspector Graham Hall to address the meeting who reported on the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completed county lines week where it was discovered there were significant safeguarding issues that needed to be targeted with further operation planned. He was pleased to report that a particular operation named ‘operation rattlesnake’ had been targeted and eradicated from Weston.</li> <li>• £20,000 investment had been secured for CCTC for the Bournville and Police were trying to work with Alliance Homes to secure further funding which could be utilised for the ‘Safe Spaces’ project.</li> <li>• The Neighbourhood teams had targeted two suppliers of cannabis and two arrests made.</li> </ul>

- Work to improve Town & Parish engagement with the 39 parishes within North Somerset was undergoing.
- There was recruitment undergoing for a position on the Town Centre team.

In response to a question, whether the town experienced many problems regarding transphobia and hate crime, Inspector Hall agreed that there was work to be done in raising awareness, as demonstrated by the comments made during the earlier meeting. However, he reported that he had not seen particular crime issues of this nature and would have to consult the data.

Inspector Hall informed, in response to a question, that due to the improved CCTV and PSPO's North Somerset Council had provided, working in conjunction with the Police. There had been a noticeable improvement in tackling crimes over the past year.

It was suggested that if parishes were to link up together for their engagement meeting with the Police this would help with improving town/parish engagement. Inspector Hall advised that logistically, it was a good idea but he would need to look at how this would be delivered.

In response to questions regarding staffing levels and response times for non-emergency reporting, Inspector Hall advised that staffing levels for Neighbourhood policing teams were experiencing 'growing pains' due to gaps in the rotas for rest days, however resource levels were improving. With regards to response times for non-emergency reporting, he would relay the comments regarding feedback and explained that if reports were logged as ASB then these would be escalated to crimes and dealt with.

*The Town Mayor thanked Inspector Graham Hall for his report and he left at 7.51 pm*

**344 Presentation of the work of the Citizens Advice Bureau (CANS)**

The presentation slides had been previously circulated and were handed out at the meeting.

The Town Mayor welcomed Richard Penska from CANS to address the meeting and deliver the presentation.

The presentation outlined how the Town Council's grant was value for money, the impact that CANS had on the local community and how they are supporting local residents with the cost-of-living crisis.

Thanks, were given to Richard and the CANS team for their invaluable service to residents.

In response to a question regarding any gaps CANS had identified and if the council could help try and fill these, Richard reported that there were increases in food poverty and food banks not being able to servicing the need and also fuel poverty.

There needed to be better connecting links on advice for energy debts.

Richard reported that he did not anticipate numbers falling and there was a link between government announcements and the CANS statistics.

The Town Mayor thanked Richard for his report.

	<p><b>Designation of Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor for the year 2023/2024</b></p> <p><b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor Tim Taylor  <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Catherine Gibbons</p> <p>A vote was taken and accordingly it was <b>carried.</b> (12 for; 1 abstention)</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That Councillor Peter McAleer be designated Town Mayor for the year 2023/2024.</p> <p>There was no proposal for the designation of Deputy Town Mayor for the year 2023/2024.</p>
<p><b>345</b></p>	<p><b>References from the Policy &amp; Finance Committee held on the 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023</b></p> <p>To approve changes to the Committee Terms of Reference</p> <p>The minute extract from the Policy &amp; Finance Committee had been previously circulated.</p> <p><b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor John Crockford-Hawley  <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Jan Holloway</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> To approve and adopt the proposed changes to the Committee Terms of Reference, with the amendment of increasing the Climate Change Working Party membership to 5.</p>
<p><b>346</b></p>	<p><b>Reference from the Tourism &amp; Leisure Committee held on the 14<sup>th</sup> February 2023</b></p> <p>.1 To approve Tourism Charges  .2 To approve the revised suggested charges for the Waterpark for 2023/2024</p> <p>The minute extract from the Tourism &amp; Leisure Committee had been previously circulated.</p> <p><b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor John Crockford-Hawley  <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Jan Holloway</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To approve Tourism Charges for the year 2023/2024.</li> <li>2. That a price increase of £3 for the Waterpark be approved for the year 2023/2024.</li> </ol>
	<p>The Town Mayor thanked everyone for attending the meeting.</p> <p>There being no further business, the Town Mayor closed the meeting at 8.23 pm.</p> <p>Signed: ..... Dated: .....</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Town Mayor</p>